

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 268307
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:EMROWELL:MS
APPROVED BY EUR - GEORGE S. VEST
S - GMITCHELL
NEA/AFN- BISHOP (PARA 3)
NEA/IAI - HOUGHTON (PARA 2)
S/S-PTARNOFF

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R 091702Z NOV 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T STATE 268307

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3-IMP

TAGS: FR, AG, MR, SG, SY, UR, PARM, OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)

SUBJECT: DE LABOULAYE CONVERSATION WITH THE SECRETARY

1. IN HIS INITIAL CALL (NOVEMBER 8) ON THE SECRETARY
TO SHOW HIS CREDENTIALS, FRENCH AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE DE
LABOULAYE AND THE SECRETARY REVIEWED THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

2. GENEVA CONFERENCE. THE SECRETARY ASKED DE LABOULAYE
TO REINFORCE IN PARIS OUR REQUESTS FOR FRENCH HELP IN
PERSUADING THE SYRIANS TO AGREE TO A GENEVA CONFERENCE
(SEPTELS). FRANCE IS THE ONLY WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRY
WE ARE APPROACHING ON THIS. WE HAVE ASKED THE MOROCCANS
FOR HELP AND AT OUR REQUEST KING KHALID ALSO AGREED TO
SEND FOREIGN MINISTER SAUD TO SYRIA. THE SAUDIS DO NOT
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WANT THE ARABS TO BE BLAMED FOR BLOCKING A GENEVA
CONFERENCE. THE SECRETARY CLARIFIED THAT OUR REFERENCE
(SEPTELS) TO RECONVENING THE 1973 CONFERENCE DID NOT
RPT NOT MEAN WE WANT TO RETURN TO THE "STEP-BY-STEP"
STRATEGY. WE DO NOT KNOW WHEN THE CONFERENCE WILL MEET,
BUT WE HOPE IT MIGHT BE AROUND CHRISTMAS. HENCE, IT IS
MOST IMPORTANT THAT THE SYRIAN DELEGATE (KHADDAM) HAVE

HELPFUL INSTRUCTIONS WHEN HE GOES TO THE ARAB CONFERENCE IN TUNIS NOVEMBER 12. DE LABOULAYE PROMISED TO CONVEY THE SECRETARY'S MESSAGE TO DE GUIRINGAUD. HE ALSO COMMENTED THAT THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR IN DAMASCUS REPORTS THAT THE SYRIANS ARE BALKING BECAUSE OF INTERNAL POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES.

3. FRENCH HOSTAGES IN SAHARA. RESPONDING TO AN OFFER FROM THE SECRETARY, DE LABOULAYE ASKED THE SECRETARY TO PRESS ALGERIA TO TRY TO ARRANGE THE RELEASE OF FRENCHMEN BEING HELD HOSTAGE BY THE POLISARIO MOVEMENT. FRANCE HAS NO FAVORITES IN THE QUESTION OF LEGAL SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE FORMER SPANISH SAHARA, BUT ONLY WANTS THE HOSTAGES RELEASED. THERE HAS BEEN SOME FRENCH "SABRE RATTLING", NOT TO MAKE BOUMEDIENE LOSE FACE BUT TO MAKE HIM FEAR THE COSTS OF THE POLISARIO ACTIONS. BOUTEFLIKA MAY BE ALONE IN BACKING THE POLISARIO. ALSO MILITARY REINFORCEMENTS WENT TO SENEGAL AT THE REQUEST OF SENGHOR WHO FEARS THAT OULD DADDAH MAY COME UNDER ALGERIAN INFLUENCE. HOWEVER THE SAHARAN TERRAIN DOES NOT LEND ITSELF TO A COMMANDO-TYPE RESCUE. HENCE, GISCARD HAD CONSENTED TO PUT FIRST EMPHASIS ON DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO RELEASE THE HOSTAGES. IF THE HOSTAGES ARE RELEASED, FRANCE WOULD RESTORE NORMAL RELATIONS WITH ALGERIA. THE SECRETARY SAID HE HAD URGED SOVIET AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN NOVEMBER 7 TO HAVE THE SOVIETS USE THEIR INFLUENCE TO
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MOVE THE CONFLICT TO THE DIPLOMATIC LEVEL. DOBRYNIN HAD AGREED THAT THIS IS AN ISSUE IN WHICH U.S. AND SOVIET INTERESTS ARE PARALLEL. THE SECRETARY ALSO PROMISED TO RAISE THE MATTER DIRECTLY WITH BOUTEFLIKA (AND DID SO IN A SUBSEQUENT MEETING AT NOON NOVEMBER 8).

4. BOURGES VISIT. DE LABOULAYE SAID THAT IN HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON NOVEMBER 18-21 WITH SECRETARY OF DEFENSE BROWN, FRENCH DEFENSE MINISTER BOURGES WOULD CONCENTRATE HIS DISCUSSIONS ON SALT, MBFR AND AWACS.

5. SALT AND CTB. THE SECRETARY SAID IT IS CLEAR BREZHNEV WANTS PROGRESS ON SALT AND ON A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN (CTB). THE SOVIETS ARE SHOWING FLEXIBILITY ON THE DURATION OF AN INTERIM CTB BETWEEN THE U.S., THE UK AND THE USSR. INSTEAD OF SAYING FRANCE AND CHINA MUST ACCEDE WITHIN 18 MONTHS FOR THE AGREEMENT TO CONTINUE IN FORCE, THE SOVIETS NOW SAY THEY CAN WAIT THREE YEARS. ALL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS, EVEN PNE'S WOULD BE BANNED. THE SOVIETS HAVE EVEN OFFERED TO ADMIT U.S. OBSERVERS UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES. IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THERE WILL BE A CTB BEFORE YEAR'S END, BUT A CTB ACCORD COULD

MOVE FASTER THAN SALT. WE HAD TOLD THE SOVIETS THAT EVEN THREE YEARS IS TOO SHORT A TIME FOR THE FIRST STAGE AGREEMENT AND IT SHOULD RUN LONGER. DE LABOULAYE SAID PRESIDENT GISCARD TOLD HIM LAST WEEK THAT GISCARD CANNOT COMMIT HIMSELF TO ANY SPECIFIC TIMEFRAME WHEN THE FRENCH MIGHT BE PREPARED TO ACCEDE TO AN AGREEMENT. FRANCE NEEDS AT LEAST FOUR OR FIVE YEARS, BUT GISCARD CANNOT SAY EVEN THAT WOULD BE ENOUGH. HE IS WELL DISPOSED TO A TEST BAN IN PRINCIPLE, BUT THERE ARE CERTAIN NATIONAL IMPERATIVES.

5. INDIAN OCEAN. RESPONDING TO A QUESTION, THE SECRETARY SAID U.S.-SOVIET DISCUSSIONS ON THE INDIAN OCEAN START NOVEMBER 14 IN BERN. SOVIETS ARE GIVING
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SOME STRANGE SIGNALS, BUT WE DO NOT KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THEY HAVE IN MIND. AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN ON THE "TODAY SHOW" SAID, "HE WOULD NOT RULE OUT" A POSSIBLE AGREEMENT.

6. PRESIDENT'S TRIP. DE LABOULAYE SAID PRESIDENT GISCARD IS PROBABLY DISAPPOINTED THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD TO DEFER HIS TRIP, BUT FRANCE UNDERSTANDS THAT U.S. ENERGY POLICY IS FUNDAMENTALLY IMPORTANT TO EVERYONE. THE SECRETARY ALLUDED TO A RECENT REPORT SUGGESTING THAT THE ONLY PRACTICAL TIME TO RESCHEDULE A VISIT TO PARIS IN THE NEXT FOUR MONTHS WOULD BE TOWARD THE END OF THE FIRST WEEK OR DURING THE SECOND WEEK OF JANUARY. WE WILL BE CHECKING WITH ALL THE CONCERNED COUNTRIES TO PROPOSE THAT THE TRIP START AROUND DEC. 27 OR 28 AND THAT THE PRESIDENT BE IN PARIS AT THE TIME SUGGESTED. VANCE

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TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 268307

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WHITE HOUSE FOR Z BRZEZINSKI

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 268307 SENT ACTION PARIS NOV 09.

QUOTE S E C R E T STATE 268307

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MEETING REPORTS, PLANNING MEETINGS, CAT-A
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE268307
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EMROWELL:MS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
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From: STATE
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 652242
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CHANGED> GWR 20040430
Subject: DE LABOULAYE CONVERSATION WITH THE SECRETARY
TAGS: PARM, OVIP, OCON, FR, AG, MR, SG, SY, UR, (CARTER, JIMMY), (DE LABOULAYE, FRANCOIS), (VANCE, CYRUS)
To: PARIS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b73a2f1e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
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Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009